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May 5, 2017

Dr. Steve Wiley Arts Center Task Force P.O. Box 2131 Richland, WA 99352

Dear Dr. Wiley:

On behalf of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), I want to thank your team for making the presentation to the Board of Directors on the Vista Center Arts Center.

As you know, TRIDEC is the lead economic development organization for Benton and Franklin Counties. The organization is supported by over 300 leading Tri-Cities businesses. The TRIDEC Board has representation from our four cities, three ports and both counties, as well as CEO-level individuals from many local companies.

The arts are an essential element to the quality of life in most communities and the Tri-Cities is no different. A local center for the performing arts would fill an unmet need for diverse types of entertainment while enhancing the quality of life. Such a facility could attract visitors to the community and would most certainly enhance local employers' ability to recruit and retain employees. The need for a performing arts center has been identified on numerous occasions by groups such as the Young Professionals of the Tri-Cities (now Emerging Tri-Cities), and by Roger Brooks in the recent branding work conducted for TRIDEC, Visit TRI-CITIES and the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce.

TRIDEC's Board of Directors supports the efforts of the Arts Center Task Force in your endeavor to make this performing arts center a reality in the Tri-Cities. We wish you the best of success.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Adrian President & CEO



